

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: SUPREME COURT LIMITS NUMBER TO BE TRIED FOR APRIL 1967 HIGH
TREASON OFFENSES

REF: A. ATHENS 2493

B. ATHENS 3188

C. ATHENS 3815

1. THE GREEK SUPREME COURT RULED ON JULY 2 THAT HIGH TREASON OFFENSES RELATED TO THE APRIL 1967 MILITARY TAKE-OVER WERE NOT "CONTINUING" IN NATURE. THE EFFECT OF THIS RULING IS THAT THOSE 104 PERSONS WHO SUBSEQUENT TO THE EVENTS OF APRIL 21, 1967 SERVED THE JUNTA IN HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL POSITIONS (AS MINISTERS, UNDER SECRETARIES, ETC.) MAY NOT NOW BE CHARGED WITH HIGH TREASON. THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN HANGING FIRE SINCE LAST APRIL (REF A) WHEN THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE APPEALED THE DECISION OF THE ATHENS COURT OF APPEALS TO INITIATE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE 104 (REF B). THE MATTER HAS BEEN UP IN THE AIR UNTIL YESTERDAY'S DECISION, WHICH IS FINAL AND MAY NOT BE APPEALED.

2. THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION THUS MEANS THAT THOSE WHO
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WIL BE CHARGED WITH HIGH TREASON OFFENSES CONNECTED WITH

THE APRIL 1967 EVENTS ARE THE 24 INDIVIDUALS WHO REPRESENTED THE "HARD CORE" OF THE SO-CALLED REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, I.E. PAPADOPOULOS, PATTAKOS, MAKAREZOS, IOANNIDES, LADAS, ETC. (REF C). TWENTY-ONE OF THEM ARE ALREADY IN PRISON, ONE (ASLANIDES) IS AWAITING EXTRADITION FROM ITALY WHERE HE WAS CAUGHT LAST WEEK, AND TWO ARE STILL IN HIDING.

3. IN A RELATED ACTION ON JULY 2, THE SUPREME COURT ALSO REJECTED THOSE APPEALS WHICH HAD BEEN FILED IN THE LATTER PART OF MAY BY 14 OF THE 24 "HARD CORE" OFFICIALS. THE GROUND IS THUS NOW PREPARED FOR THE TRIAL OF THE APRIL 21, 1967 CONSPIRATORS WHICH THE PRESS SPECULATES IS LIKELY TO OCCUR LATER THIS MONTH IN OR/THE FIRST PART OF AUGUST.

4. PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU ISSUED A STRONG REACTION CRITICIZING THE SUPREME COURT RULING AS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GREEK PEOPLE AND THAT IT IS THE DECISION OF "DIRECTED" JUSTICE. HE STATED THAT THE PEOPLE "WILL NOT FORGET" AND THAT IF THOSE "ACCOUNTABLE" ARE NOT PUNISHED, THEN DEMOCRACY WILL NOT TAKE ROOT. BOTH BRANCHES OF THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY, INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR, ALSO CRITICIZED THE RULING POINTING OUT INTER ALIA THAT IT CONSTITUTES A PROVOCATION AGAINST THE GREEK PEOPLE AND THAT THE PEOPLE WILL NEVER GIVE UP THE NATIONAL DEMAND FOR PUNISHMENT OF "ALL THOSE WHO ARE GUILTY".
KUBISCH

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